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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1514 A	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	21.4.1877	197-

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1514A

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st April 1877

No. 1,514.

Read the following letter from J. H. COOK, Esq., Special Assistant, in charge of State Relief Works, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated Pollachy, 14th March 1877, No. 50.

I HAVE the honor to submit my report (closed up to 3rd March) regarding the general results of relief operations in my division for the month of February 1877.

2. *Works.*—In my last report I stated that there were twenty-nine works in my division, consisting chiefly of roads for which metal had to be collected, village roads to be made, and of tanks and channels to be repaired. Two new roads* were sanctioned during the course of the month under report at an estimated cost of Rupees 1,600. Sanction was also accorded to raising the cost of metal collection from Rupees 110 to 625 on three roads.† This will prove most useful for many who want work. The whole outlay sanctioned for

* Road from Oodumulpettah to Kara-thoor, 6 miles	Rs. 1,200	
Road from Poolavady to public road from Palladam, 2 miles	400	
Total	1,600	
† Road from Oodumulpettah to Komara-lingam	Miles. 12	
Road from Oodumulpettah to Periyatholuvu	12	

relief works in Oodumulpettah Taluq up to the end of the month under report is Rupees 60,890. The total amount spent on relief works as per my last report was Rupees 22,194, and during the month under report the expenditure amounts to Rupees 11,718. Thus the entire sum spent on relief works is Rupees 33,912. The work done for the money spent on these is satisfactory. The average number of coolies daily at work during the month under review was 5,200. No relief works are started as yet in Pollachy Taluq, though the Tahsildar reports that in some of the dry villages distress is beginning and may prove serious should no rain fall this month. My attention will be drawn to this. The repairs of certain wells in the cusbah town of Pollachy are in progress, and Rupees 119-0-4 are spent up to the end of the month.

3. *Inspection.*—I have inspected all the works both in progress and completed. The works are progressing steadily and satisfactorily, and, as a rule, task-work is enforced everywhere. The Kullapuram channel, alluded to in my last report, has not yet been put in hand, as coolies will not go there for the small wages they receive from Government. The two new roads, mentioned in the margin of paragraph 2 above, were started by me during the course of my inspection over the Oodumulpettah Taluq, and are in progress. The one, viz., that from Poolavady to public road from Palladam, is a very useful work, as it connects the largest market place in the taluq with the cusbah.

4. *New Roads.*—The entire distance in miles of roads both originally and lately sanctioned is 85 miles. The number of miles finished as regards earth-work during the month is 18½, and there remained 10 miles to be jellied as per my last report. Out of this 28½ miles, 20¼ miles were complete in every respect, leaving only 7¾ miles to be jellied. Thus the total number of miles finished up to the end of the month as

cost of Rupees 300 a mile as sanctioned by Collector. In comparison with Mr. McWatters' rate, this may seem high, but it must be borne in mind that the soil for the most part in Oodumuppattah Taluq is black cotton, and jelly has to be procured from a distance.

5. *Metal*.—Up to the month under report 12,693½ cubic yards of metal have been collected and broken; the cost of which amounts to Rupees 8,427, showing an average rate per cubic yard of Annas 10-7. This shows the average rate per cubic yard from the beginning of the works up to date. When I first took over charge, the Tahsildar was breaking metal at about Rupees 1-8-0 per cubic yard, but I have reduced this amount. My now average rate is 8 Annas per cubic yard. This is not high considering that in some places the coolies have to go a distance of quarter mile for their metal. Were metal to be found close by as in other taluqs, I could do the work cheaper.

6. *Channels*.—The irrigation channels under repair are five in number, including one main and four branch channels as mentioned in my last report, and the same kind of repairs as alluded to before were carried on in the month; 2,400 cubic yards of earth and silt removed at a cost of Rupees 102. As per my last report 16

this item comes to Rupees 3,504 and 19,056 cubic yards of earth removed; so the rate of one cubic yard is only a little more than one anna, and is therefore below that of the Department Public Works. The works are all completed.

7. *Tanks*.—There were five tanks under repair in the Boodinattam village during the month, of which four have been completed; 525 cubic yards of earth and silt have been removed at a cost of Rupees 52 during the month. This gives an average of ten cubic yards a rupee, which is quite equal to the rate of the Department Public Works. As mentioned in my last report, the amount spent was Rupees 475 and 4,750 cubic yards of earth dug out. Therefore, the total outlay spent on these works up to the end of the month under report is Rupees 527, and the quantity of earth dug is 5,275 cubic yards. The four tanks, which were finished during the month, have their silt, &c., removed, bund strengthened, and are now in good condition.

8. *Water supply*.—Water is getting terribly scarce in all the villages except those on the east bordering the Ambravutty river, as I have alluded to before. There are thirty-three wells, including eighteen mentioned in my previous report, under repair and being sunk. The tank in the centre of the town of Oodumuppattah has almost approached completion. All the wells are let on contract to Wudders, as they are rocky and required to be blasted. Water, which is the great want of the people, can be found; it is only necessary to dig deep enough. The amount spent during the month on wells alone is Rupees 621. Two tanks, one at Poolankinur, and another at Goodimungalam, have also been repaired during the month at a cost of Rupees 504 and 480 respectively. Thus the total sum spent up to the close of the month under review in improving the water-supply of this taluq amounts to Rupees 2,288, including the amount of Rupees 683 expended up to the previous month. The amount

9. *Sanitation*.—In addition to the places already mentioned in my last report, during the month in the following villages:—

Andiyoor.
Yerpoliem.

Chinnavecrumputty.

These arrangements are done by the people themselves at their own cost, as they have seen the advantage of having their villages clean from the appearance and healthiness of the cusbah town. The cost during the month amounts to Rupees 123; and up to the month under report Rupees 2,412, including Rupees 2,289, as per my last report. The works are still in progress as cholera has not yet disappeared from the villages. Cholera has made sad havoc among the people in the taluq. From reports received 2,000 were known to have been attacked, out of which 1,200 died. But this is, I fear, much below the mark. In the cusbah itself for some time thirty and forty were daily dying. I instituted the most rigorous sanitary measures with the aid of the Hospital Assistant, Gopalasawmy Naidu, who has rendered me good assistance. I am glad now to report that this fearful epidemic has nearly all disappeared from the town, though it is still bad in the villages. I would here suggest that the vaccinators, who have to be constantly on the move from village to village, should be supplied with a stock of cholera pills and a copy of instructions how to treat cases. This would, no doubt, tend greatly to check the spread of the disease. It is impossible for the Hospital Assistant to visit everywhere.

10. *Health*.—I have no further remarks to offer on this subject. I would merely point out that the condition of the coolies is not as I should wish. They have certainly deteriorated owing to the small pittance we pay them, and say they are unable to do the same quantity of work they were doing before. If we want to keep up the physique of the coolies and help them to ward off cholera in these famine days, it is necessary to pay them higher wages. If Government are not willing to raise wages, lesser work should be exacted from them.

11. *Cattle*.—The state of the cattle has had no visible change since my last report. No disease broke out among the cattle during the month. Procuring fodder for them has become very difficult even on the hills.

12. *Markets*.—The prices of the staple grains in the markets remain stationary since my last report. The markets are still well supplied.

13. *Gratuitous Relief*.—The relief-houses in the taluq had no additions during the month. Nearly the same number of persons as reported last are fed in each house. The relief in the cusbah is under my own supervision. I frequently pay a visit to the house. Ticket system is not introduced, but strict orders have been issued to see that none but the most miserable are fed. Nothing but cooked food is administered. I have reason to believe that there is no extravagance at this house. The appearance of the recipients is sad to behold.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,

This scale was introduced during the month, as per G.O., No. 229, of 31st January 1877. The price of 1 lb. of second-sort rice was fixed at one anna according to the prevailing price in the markets. I have since found that my coolies quite as much task-work as those of Public Works Department, and as their rates are somewhat higher, it makes an invidious distinction. I therefore intend to raise my scale to those of the Public Works Department as permitted by the above-quoted Government Order and alluded to in the Collector's Circular. I trust that this will prove a benefit to the coolies and enable them to battle through this trying season.

No. 104.

SUBMITTED to the Board of Revenue, Madras, with reference to Proceedings, No. 3,244, of 21st December 1876.

What Mr. Cook's roads are the rather important. 3. From a subsequent report from Mr. Cook, dated 19th inst., the Collector learns that he has introduced the ticket system in the relief-house at Oodumulpettah. Only cooked food is distributed there. 4. As regards the physique of the work-people, it is hoped that the return to the higher, or 2 Annas scale of wages, will remove all further cause of anxiety in this respect.

COIMBATORE,
27th March 1877.

(Signed) A. MATTINDALE,
for Collector.

SUBMITTED to Government.

2. The higher rate (Scale I) for task-work having been introduced, it is to be hoped that the people will regain strength. The epidemic of cholera seems to have been very bad.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 526B. Telegram from Additional Revenue Secretary to Government, Madras, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated Fort St. George, 18th April 1877, No. 247.

What rate of wages is Cook paying? The highest permitted in G.O., No. 329, of January 31st, or higher?

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st April 1877.

No. 526C. Telegram from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector.

No. 526D.

ORDER THEREON, 21st April 1877, No. 1,514A.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government have learnt from a subsequent communication from the Collector that the rate of wages to which Mr. Cook has reverted is that prescribed by Scale I in G.O. of January 31st, No. 329, and if the laborers are doing the equivalent of 75 per cent. of a Public Works Department task he is authorized in acting as he has done.

2. The Government have heard with regret of the heavy mortality from cholera which is reported, and note the opinion that deterioration of physique is going on under insufficient wages. Mr. Cook's suggestion regarding the distribution of cholera pills by means of the Taluq Vaccinators should have the Collector's attention.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Financial Department.
" the Sanitary Commissioner.
" the Collector of Coimbatore.
" the Public Works Department.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

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No. 247.

From *Mr. A. Wedderburn*

Adl. Rev. Secy. to Govt.

To Coimbatore,

A. WEDDERBURN, Esq.,
Collector.

Wages rates of wages is Cook paying. The highest permitted in G.O., No. 329, of January 31st, or higher?

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
18th April 1877.

15140/3 Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 4th April 1877.

No. 1514
Read the following.

Boards.
G. R. N. 332

No. 50

From J. H. Cook Esquire,
Special assistant in charge of
State Relief works. Coimbatore

To A. Wedderburn Esquire.
Collector of Coimbatore.

* closed up to
3rd March

Sir. I have the honor to submit my report
regarding the general results of relief
operations in my division for the month
of February 1877. —

works

2. — In my last report, I stated that
there were 29 works in my division, con-
sisting chiefly of roads for which suba-

had to be collected, village roads to be made and of tanks and channels to be repaired. Two new roads were sanctioned during the course of the month under report at an estimated cost of Rs 1,600. sanction was also accorded to raising the cost of metal collection from

Road from
Godeemulpettah
to Karattor - 6
miles Rs 1200
22. from Podavally
to Public road
from Pallakum
2 miles - Rs 400
Total Rs 1,600.

Road from Godeemulpettah to
Koramaralingum - 12 miles
Rs. 22 to Perigaputty
12 miles.
Rs. 22 to Koratholam
12 miles.

Rs 40 to 625 on these roads. - This will prove most useful for many who want work. The whole outlay sanctioned for Relief works in Godeemulpettah. Taking up to the end of the month under report is Rs 50,890. The total amount spent on Relief works since my last report was Rs 22,194 and during the month under report the

1544
6
expenditure amounts to Rs 11,718. Thus the entire sum spent on relief works is Rs 33,912. - The work done for the money spent on these is satisfactory. The average number of coolies daily at work during the month under review, was 5,200. No relief works are started as yet in Pollachy Taluk, though the Tahsildar reports that in some of the dry villages, distress is beginning and may prove serious, should no rain fall this month. My attention will be drawn to this. - The repairs of certain wells in the quab town of Pollachy are in progress and Rs 119-4-4 are spent up to the end of the month. -

3. These inspected all the works Inspection
both in progress and completed. - The
work is progressing steadily and satis-
factorily, and as a rule, taskwork is
enforced everywhere. - The Kullapuram
change alluded to in my last report,
has not yet been put in hand, as coolies
will not go there for the small wages
they receive from Government. The two
new roads mentioned in the margin of
para 2 above, were started by me during
the course of my inspection over the Goda-
-muppettal Taluk and are in progress.

The one viz that from Poolanady to Pillai
road from Palladium is a very useful
work as it connects the largest market
place

New Roads

place in the Taluk with the creek. -
4. The entire distance in miles, of
roads both originally and lately sanctioned,
is 85 miles. The number of miles finished
as regards earth work during the month
is $18\frac{1}{2}$ and there remained 10 miles to be
finished, as per my last report. Out of this
 $28\frac{1}{2}$ miles, $20\frac{3}{4}$ miles were complete in
every respect leaving only $7\frac{3}{4}$ miles to be
finished. - Thus the total number of miles
finished up to the end of the month as
regards earth work is 56 miles, of which
 $48\frac{1}{4}$ miles are quite complete in every
respect. The cost on this item as per my
last report was Rs 10,538 and during
the month under review is Rs 6,216:-

the whole expenditure being Rs 16,754.-

The average cost for making a mile of new road comes to Rs 275 and therefore falls -

within the estimated cost of Rs 300 a mile as sanctioned by collector. - In com-

parison with the water rate this may seem high, but it must be borne in mind

that the soil for the most part in Goda-

-mulpettah Taluk is black cotton and jelly has to be procured from a distance. -

5 Up to the month under report 12,693½ metals

C. qrs of metal have been collected and broken - The cost of which amounts to

Rs 5,427 showing an average rate, per cubic yard of Rs 0-10-7. - This shows the average rate per cubic yard from

the beginning of the works up to date.

When Dykes took over charge, the Taluk

was breaking metal at about Rs

1-8-0 per cubic yard, but I have

reduced this amount. My new average

rate is 8 annas per cubic yard. This

is not high, considering that in some

places, the coolies have to go a distance

of ¼ a mile for their metal - were metal

to be found close by as in other Taluks.

I could do the work cheaper.

channels 6. The irrigation channels under repair

are 5 in number including 1 main and

4 branch channels as mentioned in

my last report, and the same kind of

repairs attended to before, were carried

in the month - 2400 C. yds of earth and
silt removed at a cost of Rs 102.- as per
last report 46,656 C yds of earth were
dug out and Rs 3,402 spent. The total
cost therefore on this item comes to Rs -
3,504 and 49,056 cubic yards of earth
removed. - so the rate of 1 cubic yard
is only a little more than 1 anna and is
therefore below that of the D.P.W. The
works are all completed.

6. There were 5 tanks under repair Tanks
in the Boddinattam village during the
month, of which 4 have been completed.
525 cubic yards of earth and silt have
been removed at a cost of Rs 52, during
the month. This gives an average of 10

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cubic yards a rupee which is quite equal
to the rate of the D.P.W. - As mentioned
in my last report the amount spent was
Rs 475 and 4750 C yards of earth dug out.
Therefore the total outlay spent on these
works up to the end of ~~the~~ month under
report is Rs 527 and the quantity of earth
dug is 5,275 C yards. The four tanks which
were finished during the month, have
their silt &c removed, lands strong themselves
and are now in good condition.

Water supply 7. Water is getting terribly scarce
in all the villages except those on the east
bank of the Subramanyam river, as I have
alluded to before. - There are 33 wells

including 18 mentioned in my previous report under repair and being sunk. The tank in the centre of the town of Bodinupattal, has almost approached completion.

All the wells are let on contract to mudders, as they are rocky and required to be blasted.

Water which is the great want of the people can be found. It is only necessary

to dig deep enough. The amount spent during the month on wells alone is Rs 621.

Two tanks, one at Poolankur and another at Goodinupattal have also been repaired

during the month at a cost of Rs 500 and 400 respectively. Thus the total sum

spent up to the close of the month under review in improving the water supply

of this taluk amounts to Rs 2,288. including the amount of Rs 683 expended up to the previous month. - The amount sanctioned for the purpose, is Rs 4,000, which I fear will not be sufficient as the weather is terribly hot with no prospects of rain for the present, and more wells and tanks will have to be dug and repaired.

Sanitation

8. In addition to the places alluded to in my last report, sanitary arrangements such as those described, were under progress during the month in the following villages.

Budiyoor

Gripollicum

Chimavereumpetty

These arrangements are done by the people themselves at their own cost, as

they have seen the advantage of having
their villages clean from the appearance
and healthiness of the Cusab town. The
cost during the month amounts to Rs 123;
and up to the month under report Rs
2412 including Rs 2,289 as per my last
report. - The works are still in progress
as cholera has not yet disappeared from
the villages. - Cholera has made sad
havoc among the people in the Taluk.
From reports received 2000 were known
to have been attacked, out of which
1200 died. But this is I fear much
below the mark. In the Cusab itself
for some time, 30 & 40 were daily dying.
I insisted upon the most rigorous sanitary

1511/12
measures with the aid of the Hospital
Assistant - Chopalasawny Naider who
has rendered me good assistance. - I am
glad now to report that this fearful
epidemic has nearly all disappeared
from the town, though it is still bad
in the villages. I would here suggest that
the vaccinators who have to be constantly
on the move from village to village should
be supplied with a stock of cholera pills
and a copy of instructions how to treat
cases. This would no doubt tend greatly
to check the spread of the disease. It is
impossible for the Hospital Assistant to
visit everywhere.

9. I have no further remarks to offer Health
on this subject. I would merely point
out that the condition of the coolies is not
as I should wish. They have certainly
deteriorated owing to the scanty pittance
we pay them, and say they are unable
to do the same quantity of work they
were doing before. If we want to keep
up the physique of the coolies and help them
to ward off cholera in these famine days,
it is necessary to pay them higher wages.

If Government are not willing to raise
wages, lesser work should be exacted
from them.

10. The state of the cattle has had no Cattle
visible change since my last report.

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12
No disease broke out among the cattle
during the month. Procuring fodder
for them has become very difficult even
on the hills.

Markets

11. The prices of the staple grains in the
markets remain stationary since my last
report. The markets are still well supplied.

Gratuitous
Relief.

12. The Relief houses in the Taluk had
no addition during the month. Nearly
the same number of persons as reported last
are fed in each house. The relief in the
Cusbah is under my own supervision. -
I frequently pay a visit to the house. -
Lick's system is not introduced, but strict
orders have been issued to see that none
but the most miserable are fed. Nothing

but cooked food is administered. I have
reason to believe that there is no ex-
travagance at this house. - The appear-
ance of the recipients is said to be better.

13. Payments are made bi-weekly. Payment
and exchange took place during the month.
Wages were paid to coolies during the
month according to the following scale -

For 1 male - One anna 46 pice
1 female - One anna 43 pice

1 Boy - 9 pice -

This scale was introduced during the
month as per G. O. No. 329 of 31st January

1877. - The price of 1st of 2nd sort rice
was fixed at one anna according to the
prevailing price in the markets. - I have
since found that my coolies do quite as
much

much task work as those of D.P.N., and
as their rates are somewhat higher it
makes an invidious distinction. - I there-
fore intend to raise my scale to those

of the D.P.N. as permitted by the above
quoted G.O. and alluded to in the collector's

circular. I trust that this will prove
a benefit to the coolies and enable them
to battle through this trying season.

Coimbatore Special }
Asst. Office }
Camp Pollachy } (Signed) J. H. Cook
14th March 1877 } Special Assistant.
(True copy)

No. 104

Submitted to the Board of Revenue,
Madras, with reference to Proceedings
No. 3,244 of 21st December 1876.

2. - What Gen. Cook means by new roads are the restoration of totally neglected old ones or rather important tracks between villages. -

3. From a subsequent report from
T. J. Cork dated 19th Inst, the collector
learns that he has introduced the ticket
system in the Relief house at Enniskillen
G. S. M. P. O. Only cooked food is
distributed there.

4. As regards the physique of the
work people, it is hoped that the return
to the higher or 2 annas scale of wages, will
remove all further cause of unsoundness in
this respect. -

Coimbatore Collection } (Signed) C. Martindale
Office }
27th March 1877 }
For Collector

Submitted by overrument.

The higher rate (Scale I) for task work having been introduced it is to be hoped that the people will regain strength.

The epidemic of cholera seems to have been -
very bad

(True copy & Extract)

Deputy
Secretary.

The Adm^l Secretary to Government R. D.

[illegible]

124-117-11

Nov 1877 A.
78. 2201

Proceedings of the
Board of P. & C.

Dec 4 to Dec 1877.

Dec 4 - 1877
Dec 5 - 1877

W. H. Cook
Q & 21st Dec 1877
Subcommittee of the Board

with some remarks a letter
from the Committee of the Board

proceeding the report of the
Committee of the Board

in the division for the month
of January 1877

The for: observe that Mr. Cook is in
error in supposing that the 31st Jan. 1877
price to the same rate as paid by the S.P. & C. to
his labourers. The highest rate
paid under any circumstances under that
to the labourer is 1 anna plus the price of
a pound of grain. It may be that that rate
is equal in value to the S.P. & C. rate of the day
but the payment of the S.P. & C. rate is not authorized
by the Government nor is there any necessity for it.
The Government has 3/4 of the S.P. & C. for relief
labour.

2. The for: notice with regard to being materially
in error reported by Mr. Cook's suggestion
regarding the distribution of cholera pills by means
of the S.P. & C. is that the Committee of the Board

NOTE the opinion that the 12/4/77
order of the Board is not valid
J. H. P.